



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR JEFF WRIGHT**

## **Minutes**

### **Newington Town Council**

**February 23, 2010**

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Helen Nelson Room of the Newington Town Hall.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROLL CALL**

#### Councilors Present:

Councilor Banach  
Councilor Casasanta  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor Lenares  
Councilor McBride  
Council Nagel  
Council Nasinnyk  
Mayor Wright

#### Councilors Absent

Councilor Klett

#### Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Jeff Baron, Director Administrative Services  
Jaime Trevethan, Exec. Asst. to the Town Manager  
Mary Richard, Council Clerk

Councilor Casasanta moved to add an item to the agenda: V.D. Realignment of Maple Hill Avenue. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0. (Councilor Klett Absent)

## **III AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS**

A. Robert Trommer – Volunteer of the Year 2009 – Newington Fire Department

Mayor Wright moved the following resolution in Recognition of Mr. Robert Trommer for 47 years as a Volunteer of the Year 2009:

**WHEREAS, each year the Town Council recognizes someone who has voluntarily dedicated time and/or resources for the benefit of others and the community at large; and**

**WHEREAS, this year Mr. Robert Trommer is being recognized for his active involvement with the Newington Volunteer Fire Department since joining in 1963; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Trommer has served as Company No. 2 Drill Master, Company No. 2 Second Lieutenant, Company No. 2 First Lieutenant, Company No. 2 Captain and Staff Officer – Apparatus Division ; and**

**WHEREAS, Mr. Trommer has served our community for over forty five years and continues to be an active member and apparatus driver;**

Phone: (860) 665-8510 Fax: (860) 665-8507  
townmanager@newingtonct.gov  
www.newingtonct.gov

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby designates Robert Trommer as its 2009 Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his volunteer activities for the welfare of the community as a whole and for serving as a positive role model and an example of all that can be accomplished through the efforts of volunteers.**

Councilors Banach, Nasinnyk, Cohen, Casasanta, Nagel, McBride, Lenares congratulated Mr. Trommer on his dedication to the Town of Newington and the Fire Department. Mr. Trommer thanked the members for the wonderful comments. Chief Chris Schroeder thanked Mr. Trommer for his dedication and also his family and all the families of the Volunteers for their understanding of how important this effort is.

Sandy Lallier, 27 Elton Drive expressed her gratitude and appreciation the services the Fire Department renders having had an experience with needing them and they were right there very quickly.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive expressed her appreciation and said that her experience has been very rewarding in that her co-worker had expressed the many times her husband was asked to leave home to take care of our Town.

MOTION BY: Mayor Wright      SECONDED BY: Councilor Nasinnyk      VOTE: 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

#### **IV      PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public speakers were present.

#### **V.      CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. 2011 Revaluation**

Councilor Lenares moved the following:

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the proposal of Tyler Technologies of Tolland, Connecticut to perform the full inspection revaluation services of taxable and exempt real property for the Grand List of October 1, 2011. These services shall be in accordance with option two of the Town's Request for Proposals No. 2, 2009-10, Section IV.C.iv., and shall use the Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc. computer-assisted mass appraisal software following conversion of the Town's data. The Town Manager, John L. Salomone, is authorized to execute a contract with Tyler Technologies for the sum of \$226,000 and with Vision Appraisal Technology, Inc. for the sum of \$32,000.**

Mayor Wright stated that at the last meeting Mr. Juda was here and made a presentation, and although no one in Town likes to do the Revaluation but it required by CT State Law. He commended Mr. Juda and his staff for putting together a better approach for doing the revaluation, and a year or so ago we thought it would be costing the Town of Newington around \$7,000,000 and this comes down to roughly one third of the original figure was and we thank Mr. Juda and his staff for their effort.

MOTION BY: Councilor Lenares      SECONDED BY: Councilor Casasanta      VOTE: 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

##### **B. Fee Changes - West Meadow Cemetery**

Councilor Lenares moved the following:

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby adopts amendments to the Newington Code of Ordinances Chapter 194 entitled "Cemeteries", a copy of said amendments is attached to the resolution.**

**TOWN OF NEWINGTON  
PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS  
CHAPTER 194: CEMETERIES**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF NEWINGTON THAT:  
Chapter 194, "Cemeteries" is hereby amended as follows:**

**§194-11 E, will be amended to add at the end of the section "Nothing will be allowed to be taped, adhered to, or in any way placed on the gravestone. All such items shall be removed by the Town of Newington cemetery personnel and the expense for removal shall be charged to the owner of the gravesite."**

**Add the following:**

**§194-11 H. For all double depth burials, any funeral or related service in the cemetery shall be held with the casket on firm ground in the vicinity of the grave, the specific location to be determined by the Sexton. The casket shall be lowered into the grave only after the ceremony is over.**

**§194-12 I (2), will be amended to read: "No memorial, whether upright monument or flush marker, shall be less than four inches in thickness at its narrowest dimension, nor more than a maximum of fourteen inches. Upright monuments in the non-Veteran's section added in 2009, known as Section F, may be of variable heights, not to exceed forty eight inches in height, including the base. No monument shall be wider than thirty six inches at its widest point, when placed on a single grave monument lot. No monument shall be wider than fifty four inches at its widest point when placed on a double grave monument lot."**

**§194-12 I (4), will be amended to read: "Only one upright monument shall be allowed for each monument lot and only one flush marker per grave will be permitted. On a flush marker lot, two flush markers will be permitted per grave."**

**Add the following:**

**§ 194-14. Cremated Remains Columbaria.**

- A. Unless specifically provided herein, the provisions of §194-11 Interments, shall also apply to this section. For this section "graves" shall be replaced with "niches", "interment" with "inurnment", and "disinterment" with "removal of urns".**
- B. The Sexton shall have authority to sell inurnment rights and inscription rights for cremated remains. Rights shall only be sold to persons having residence within the Town of Newington for a period of six months or more, or to persons who formerly had residence within the Town of Newington of at least six months' duration. There shall be no more than two sets of cremated remains in any niche. All cremated remains shall be contained in urns that will fit within the purchased niche. No inurnment shall be permitted unless the niche to be used is paid in full prior to or at the time of inurnment. Niches may be reserved for a period of no longer than 30 days, upon which time full payment must be made. No credit or installments shall be allowed. All niches must be paid in full before any inscriptions are made on the columbarium. Upon payment in full of the purchase price, a deed will be executed and delivered to the purchaser for each niche sold. Each such deed shall be subject to the terms of this chapter and such other rules and regulations as may be adopted for the management of the cemetery. Any deed shall grant to the purchaser only the right to use the niche for the inurnment of the ashes of himself/herself, his/her family, his/her heirs and devisees and such friends (provided such friends have been Newington residents) as may be placed therein without profit, gain, emolument, or advantage to the purchaser or owner of the niche.**
- C. In the event of any transfer or sale of a niche by the purchaser or owner, the Town of Newington shall have the first right to purchase the niche at the same price at which the Town originally sold the niche to the owner. Any sale or transfer of any niche which has not been first offered to the Town in accordance with the above shall be void. Furthermore, no sale or transfer of a niche by any purchaser or owner or heir will be allowed or be valid except upon the prior written notice to and consent of the Sexton and upon receipt of the original deed. The Sexton shall impose a**

reasonable charge for effecting any proper transfer of a niche. The Sexton shall also charge for a new face plate cover whenever the Town purchases back a niche whose face plate cover is no longer blank.

- D. When a deed is issued for a niche, it shall convey only the right of inurnment therein and the inscription of the face plate, and it shall be the duty of the Sexton to enter thereon and prohibit, remove, or modify an object or adornment or work done in violation of this chapter or rules and regulations established pursuant thereto which may be judged objectionable or injurious to the cemetery. The Town of Newington shall reserve the right to develop and improve the cemetery and the columbarium from time to time in accordance with the judgment of the Sexton.
- E. All inurnments and removals of urns shall be made by Town of Newington cemetery personnel. All inscriptions shall be cut by a method of sandblasting into faceplates affixed to the granite fronts of the niches. The style and size of lettering and numerals shall be determined by the Sexton and a standard set for all lettering on the niche fronts. After completion of the official inscription form by an authorized agent of the deed holder, all inscription work will be done by the Town of Newington or a contractor selected by and working under the direction of the Sexton. In the event that information for inscription provided to the Sexton is inaccurate or incorrect, all costs to correct the inscription or to make a new inscription shall be paid for by the niche owner. Inscriptions shall be limited to the name, on one or two lines, the year of birth, and the year of death only. There shall not be more than 16 characters and spaces per line. For Veterans who have received an honorable discharge from United States military service, inscriptions shall include the person's name, year of birth, year of death, the branch of service, and the war(s) in which the Veteran served.
- F. There shall be a Veteran's Section, with graves and a columbarium, in the West Meadow Cemetery, reserved specifically for those who have received an honorable discharge from United States military service, and their spouses, only. Inscriptions for the niches in this columbarium shall be limited to the person's name, on one or two lines, the year of birth, the year of death, the branch of service and the war(s) in which the Veteran served. There shall not be more than 16 characters and spaces per line. Graves in this Veteran's section shall have flush markers only.
- G. All plantings shall be done and maintained by Town of Newington cemetery personnel.
- H. Nothing will be allowed to be taped, adhered to, or in any way placed on the niche fronts or the columbarium. Pictures, flowers, flower holders, decorations, etc. shall not be allowed on the niche fronts or the columbarium. All such items shall be removed by Town of Newington cemetery personnel and the expense for the removal and cleaning of the granite shall be charged to the niche owner. Inurnment rights may be revoked if continued violation of these rules and regulations occur.

Councilor Cohen stated that the changes were necessary because the created remains not having been addressed and this addresses those issues. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that as a member of that committee invited the public to visit the cemetery and see where this section has been expanded. Mr. Baron stated that each section will have a face plate of polished granite and will be inscribed. He brought a sample of the face plate. Councilor Cohen added these changes were approved by our Town Attorney.

MOTION BY: Councilor Lenares  
(Councilor Klett Absent)

SECONDED BY: Councilor Cohen

VOTE: 8 – 0

**C: Inland Wetlands Revised Regulations**

Councilor Lenares moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

Pursuant to Sec. 6-18 of the Newington Code of Ordinances, the Newington Town Council hereby approves amendments to the "Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of

**Newington” as proposed by the Conservation Commission, subjected to a Public Hearing, and reviewed by the Town Council.**

Councilor Nasinnyk stated that for public knowledge there are four new sections which are re-numbering the changes.

MOTION BY: Councilor Lenares      SECONDED BY: Councilor Casasanta      VOTE: 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

#### **D. Realignment of Maple Hill Avenue**

Councilor Casasanta moved the following:

**WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation considered the Maple Hill Avenue realignment project a high priority; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council wishes the Connecticut Department of Transportation to Initiate discussions with the Town for completing the project, which was postponed in 2003;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager and staff to establish communications with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to initiate the planning process for the potential realignment of Maple Hill Avenue.**

Mayor Wright stated that these changes don't bind the Town to any action, just allows this process to begin and to look at solutions. We're concerned about the safety and traffic flow.

MOTION BY: Councilor Casasanta      SECONDED BY: Councilor Nagel      VOTE: 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

### **VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Central CT Health District Community Health Report Card Presentation (CCHD)**

Mr. Paul Hutcheon and Mr. Kevin Borrup were present – Mr. Borrup, Chair of the CCHD, said he appreciated the opportunity to be here. Mr. Paul Hutcheon, Director of Health, gave a twelve slide presentation on their Community

Health Report Card and also submitted a “Year In Review” pamphlet. (presentation attached) Mr. Hutcheon said that they were just notified by the National Health Organization, that the H1N1 the swine flu version will be included in next year's formulation for the seasonal flu shot. Councilor Nagel asked if there would be no charge for the H1N1 vaccine, does the District have to pay for it. Mr. Hutcheon answered no, that the vaccine was a Federal asset and so it was produced and owned by the Federal government and dispensed to the State of Ct at no cost to us. We received this vaccine paid for by the Federal Government and we were then paid to administer this vaccine by the State Health Department. That money we received was used to contract all the people who were part of administering the vaccine. Because of that there was no need to charge the customer the \$15.00. This will be available through March. Mr. Hutcheon suggested that if anyone looking for the seasonal shot, go to the American Lung Association website and click on the flu clinic locator button to find a choice of clinics.

Councilor Casasanta asked if the Community Health District has a tracking system for children with Autism. Mr. Hutcheon answered that they do not but would look into it.

#### **B. Ordinance Amendment: Insurance Reserve Fund**

Mayor Wright invited Jeff Baron, Director of Administrative Services and Joe Peak of R C Knox Company, the Town Insurance Agent of Record. Councilor Nasinnyk stated that she appreciates the opportunity for Jeff Baron and Joe Peak to be here to describe the Insurance Reserve Fund in that it is inadequate. Mr. Peak stated that there was the same amount going back almost twenty years. Over that time it had to respond to an accumulative affect of various deductible programs. After going to the CIRMA firm to ask that they use, for Newington, the actuary that they used. Looking at the mounting obligations Newington has, which came to \$476,000 as a projection, so obviously indicated that Newington's reserve fund is quite inadequate and going

back six years and each year was inadequate. He suggested that it would be more scientific to have an actuary projection to show what they feel that the amount should be going forward. John Salomone pointed out that this is not a crisis situation but just a matter of being proactive in funding over future projections. Councilor Nasinnyk noted that there was a note from the Town Attorney, Ben Ancona that he was very happy with the changes and wording.

#### **VII.A. Resignation/Appointment – Development Commission**

Councilor Banach moved the following:

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby accepts the resignation of Kevin Chick from the Development Commission, in accordance with a communication dated February 16, 2010.**

Councilor Banach stated that Kevin Chick is resigning as an Alternate Commissioner and will be appointed as a Regular Commissioner.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0. (Councilor Klett Absent)

Councilor Banach moved the following:

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

##### **Development Commission**

9 members, 3 alternates, 3 year term  
Party Max.: 6  
Remaining members: 5 Dem., 3 Rep.  
Alternates: 1 Rep., 1 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Alternate: Fernando Rosa	22 Chaplin Street	D	Immed. – 11/30/10	Kevin Chick (Resigned 2/10)

Seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk - Vote 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

#### **B. Appointments to Boards and Commissions**

Councilor Banach moved the following appointments:

##### **RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointments:**

##### **4. Development Commission**

9 members, 3 alternates, 3 year terms  
Party Max.: 6  
Remaining Members: 6 Dem., 3 Rep.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Kevin Chick	34 Cortland Way	D	Immed. – 11/30/12	Mark Pappa (de facto 12-1-09)

6. **EMS Committee**

5 members, 2 year term  
Party Max: (4)  
Remaining members: 1 Rep., 0 Dem.

Name	Address	Party	Term	Replaces
Gloria Olesen	1433 Willard Avenue Apt. 11	D	IMMED – 12/31/11	Gloria Olesen (Term exp. 12/31/09)

Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

**VIII TAX REFUNDS**

Councilor Lenares moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,134.96 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the “Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes,” certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.**

Seconded by: Councilor Casasanta - Vote 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett Absent)

**IX MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**January 26, 2010 Regular Meeting**

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Councilor Cohen. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent).

**February 9, 2010 Public Hearing**

Councilor Nagel moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Councilor Nasinnyk. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent).

**February 9, 2010 Regular Meeting**

Councilor Nagel noted that on page 14, his comment referring to initial planning was in regards to the Open Space Committee, not the Library (so noted.)

Councilor Nasinnyk noted that on page 14, her comment referring to the insurance fund was in regards to the Standing Insurance Committee, not the CIP Committee. (so noted)

Councilor Cohen noted that on page 14, her comments regarding the Commission on Aging referred to tax preparation volunteers, not Commission on Aging volunteers. (so noted)

Councilor Nasinnyk moved to accept the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 8-0 (Councilor Klett Absent).

**X Town Manager Report**

John Salomone reported next Friday the Town Council will receive the Town Manager's proposed budget and then in March we'll have double sessions, to go over the various aspects of the budget.

Secondly, there was a comment at the East Side corner of the municipal parking lot with the lighting. We had the Parks Department take a look at it and concluded that it's either corrosion of the signal or transmission box or something during the construction on the West Side that affected the lighting. We'll have to look further for the best option and see what the solutions are. On the Cell Phone Tower issue he has asked for options for alternative sights, keeping the public comments in mind.

Councilor Banach asked the Town Manager if there is a way we can get from the Fire Department and the Chief of Police if that tower in that position rectify the problem in the Southern part of the Town. Town Manager Salomone stated that the Police Chief has been involved and they are comfortable in that it would supply the area that has less than average coverage.

Councilor Nagel mentioned the water damage at the Kellogg-Eddy House, rental section, and would these repairs be included in the budget. Town Manager Salomone said that most of the damage was exterior and some of the restoration that needs to be done is included.

Councilor Nagel questioned the problems noted in the Town Clerk's land record indexing system. Town Manager Salomone stated that the problem has been resolved.

**XI COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS** – no reports on this item.

**XII PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Maddie Kenny, 53 Crestview Drive – asked that as the Budget process proceeds, not everyone does have a computer and some are not comfortable using the computer. Would it be possible to post in the Town Crier a list of dates and list of topics to be covered, so that those interested can come and express themselves. She urged the public to come and participate in these matters.

Rose Lyons thanked Mr. Salomone for giving her the answer regarding the East Side Parking Lot.

**XIII REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Cohen – reminded everyone that April 25 will be the opening date for the Kiwanis Flea Market. On that day at 11 AM the Mayor will be there along with Brad Davis and the public is encouraged to participate.

Councilor Nasinnyk asked about the Council use of a telephone for public participation. Mr. Salomone stated that the phone number will be the same number as posted. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

Councilor Banach stated that he had communications with State Legislatures and regarding the Veterans Hospital, and they indicated that they might have the ability to further advance our ability to give Veterans preference and he will keep everyone informed on how this moves forward.

Mayor Wright stated that at a meeting with the representatives from the Veterans Hospital had expressed our very strong desire to assure that Veterans get first preference. It's an ongoing process.

Councilor Nagel said recently he attended the initial event of the CT State Library ceremony, including Newington, kicking off a celebration of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and hopes everyone will participate.

Councilor Casasanta reminded everyone about the Newington's Got Talent show coming up on February 26.

**XIV ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Wright moved to adjournment at 8:10 PM – Seconded by Councilor Lenares - Vote 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett absent)

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Richard  
Clerk of the Council